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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 28 April 1952

SUBJECT Visit of CURIE-SKLODOWSKA to Ch'inhuangtao and
Dairen

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1. [redacted] the Polish motorship CURIE-SKLODOWSKA arrived at the entrance of Ch'inhuangtao Harbor [redacted] and dropped anchor about 6 miles out to await a pilot. The pilot after escorting a Soviet ship of about 2,000 tons from the harbor took the CURIE-SKLODOWSKA into Ch'inhuangtao the next morning. The anchor was not lifted until the crew had been screened (all seamen's books were compared with the crew list) and medically examined.
2. Before being screened the crew was ordered to deposit all cameras, binoculars, etc, in the radio cabin which was then sealed and opened again when the vessel had left Chinese territorial waters. Customs control was perfunctory, though it took four hours. No cabins were examined.
3. The pilot's tugboat brought a party of about 15 persons, including Julian Cegielski, a former Polish officer and assistant chief of the Polish-Chinese Maritime Office at Tientsin; a medical officer, a shipping agent, and armed Chinese troops.
4. Immediately after the ship was berthed Chinese coolies started to unload the cargo. The unloading went on for 24 hours using two shifts. The ship's search-lights were used at night in the absence of any port electric lighting. [redacted]
[redacted] The port was not equipped with fixed or other loading (unloading) facilities. 50X1-HUM
5. No guards were posted during the vessel's stay at Ch'inhuangtao, and the crew was allowed to go ashore and enter the town, about 1 kilometer from the harbor. Members of the crew had to deposit their seaman's books at the guard house opposite the gate and were given in exchange a pass in Chinese. The passes were handed back on return in exchange for the seaman's books. No personal search was made. On this occasion crew members were not followed when in town. Previously, police and customs control had been very strict and every seaman was followed - quite openly - by two Chinese.

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-2-

6. The depth of Ch'inhuangtao Harbor is about 25 feet. Quays and breakwater are of concrete. A railway connects the harbor with the town. The port area is surrounded by a wire net fence which is easy to cross. Only a few soldiers were stationed in the town and port, and no anti-aircraft or coastal defenses were observed.
7. The CURIE-SKLODOWSKA put into Dairen for 24 hours to take on oil. The vessel was berthed at a wooden jetty about 50 meters long and 15 meters wide, about 2 kilometers west of the main harbor. It took 24 hours to pump in 400 tons of oil.
8. The vessel was guarded throughout the stay by three Chinese soldiers. No one was allowed to go ashore at Dairen.

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